

Melancon Voted to Fund Grants

November 30, 2009

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The grants are part of NTIA's State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program, which is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Rep. Melancon supported the Recovery Act to create jobs in Louisiana and improve the state's infrastructure.

"Expanding broadband Internet access throughout Louisiana will help our citizens utilize the full potential of the Internet to communicate, learn and do business," Rep. Melancon said. "This investment in our infrastructure will not only provide faster access to information, it will also create new jobs for Louisianians."

The State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program is a matching grant program that assist states in gathering and verifying state-specific data on the availability, speed, location and technology type of broadband services. The data states collect and compile will also be used to develop publicly available state-wide broadband maps and to inform the comprehensive, interactive and searchable national broadband map that NTIA is working to create and make publicly available by Feb. 17, 2011.

The national broadband map will publicly display the geographic areas where broadband service is available; the technology used to provide the service; the speeds of the service; and broadband service availability at public schools, libraries, hospitals, colleges, universities and public buildings. The national map will also be searchable by address and show the broadband providers offering service in those communities.

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